

Communication Matters

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Just Released!

HEARING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ONLINE GUIDE

Not just another catalog, the *Hearing Assistive Technology Online Guide* is designed to lead you through the process of determining the best accommodations for a unique individual in a particular listening situation. Beginning with the best practice principle that “one size never fits all”, the guide uses questions and considerations based on level of hearing loss, listening situation, and hearing aid features. While this may sound complex, if you follow the instructions and hyper links you should arrive at specific recommendations to research further. Of course, suggestions of where and how to dig deeper are included. The goal is to give you enough information to ask intelligent questions without totally overwhelming those who are new to the technology.

Julie Eckhardt has developed this guide for Michigan Rehabilitation Services. A number of people have reviewed the guide for technical accuracy. If you have questions about using the guide, or find an error, please contact Julie at 231/922-2943 or jewel@chartermi.net.

The guide should be included in the e-mail with this edition of Communication Matters. If you did not receive a copy, contact Julie. It is also posted on E-Learn.



Inside the Guide

ALARM CLOCKS...
ALERTING SYSTEMS...
AUDISEE...
CAPTIONED MEDIA...
EAR PROTECTION...
FM SYSTEMS...
HEARING DOGS...
I COMMUNICATOR...
INDUCTION LOOP SYSTEM ...
INFRARED LISTENING SYSTEMS...
INTERACTIVE WRITING...
INTERPRETERS...
INTERPRETYPE...
LINK • IT...
NOTE TAKERS...
PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES
(PERSONAL AMPLIFIERS)...
SIGN LANGUAGE...
STETHOSCOPES...
SWEAT BANDS FOR HEARING AIDS
TIMERS...
C-PRINT®
AMPLIFIED TELEPHONES...
CAPTEL™...
CELL PHONES AND ADAPTERS...
TELEPHONE ADAPTERS...
STRAP-ON AMPLIFIERS
TWO-WAY TEXT PAGERS...
TTY OR TDD...
RELAY SERVICES...
VOICE CARRY OVER (VCO)...
VIDEO RELAY SERVICE (VRS)...
VOICE MAIL TRANSCRIPTION...

AND MORE...

New Guide Will Make Your Work Easier

Article by Roy Del Valle. Roy is a rehabilitation counselor in the Lansing District Office of Michigan Rehabilitation Services

Ever wonder how to find the appropriate Assistive Listening Device (ALD) for your hearing impaired participants? With the abundance of new technology available today the choices can be overwhelming. Fret no more! There is now a reference tool available that takes the guesswork out of searching for ALDs. The *Hearing Assistive Technology Online Guide* will make you and your participant's search efforts more focused and timely.

The *Hearing Assistive Technology Online Guide* will not only facilitate research on the technology available, but will also allow you to document your findings. The *Hearing Assistive Technology Online Guide* contains links to the manufacturers of

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Information or news related to Deaf or Hard of Hearing services may be forwarded to Julie Eckhardt at jewel@chartermi.net. Views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily the views of Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth-Rehabilitation Services. Communication Matters is available on the web at www.michigan.gov/mrs and on the E-Learn Deaf & Hard of Hearing Resource Center.



YOU CAN SAVE THAT GUIDE!

(AND FIND IT TO USE LATER)

QUICK TIPS FOR THE COMPUTER CHALLENGED

It's true. Sometimes documents that arrive by e-mail are a bit tricky to file away and retrieve again at a more convenient time. Just leaving a document attached to the original e-mail is a great way to lose it forever.

Paula Brzezinski offers these steps, so that you can save the *Hearing Assistive Technology Online Guide* for later use. These steps are for **Groupwise Users** with a Windows operating system (most the computers in use by Michigan Rehabilitation Services).

If you do happen to misplace the guide in spite of these directions, obtain a new copy on E-Learn in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Resource Center (MRS staff and blended staff only).

Save & Print GroupWise attachments:

- Open e-mail containing attachment
- Drag attached file to your desktop
- Close e-mail
- Locate dragged file on desktop
- Double Click on file to open up
- Click on Print
- Click on Save As
- Save file in appropriate folder
- Close document
- Drag document on desktop to Recycle Bin

Creating a Shortcut to a Saved File

- Using My Computer - locate saved file
- Highlight file
- Right click on the file name
- Click on Create Shortcut (shortcut will appear at the bottom of the window)
- Drag the Shortcut to your Desktop
- Close out of My Computer
- Double click the Shortcut icon to open the file

The Guide that Will Make Your Work Easier

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the item you might be researching, providing you and your customer with product specifications, pricing and ordering information. These links can be bookmarked for quick future reference. Additionally, case documentation can easily be accomplished through Cut and Paste options into AWARE or by simply printing the information needed for inclusion in the case file. Either method will assure quick access to the information for future reference.

For example, about one year ago a customer of mine requested assistance with purchasing a Personal FM System recommended by his audiologist. Not being very familiar with this new technology, I was left to searching the Web with little information to go on other than the model name, e.g. Phonak Microlink FM system. After searching the Phonak web site I was able to obtain basic information regarding the many personal FM systems available. This only added to my confusion, as I was without the basic knowledge of what a personal FM system was and how it operates. When

previewing the *Hearing Assistive Technology Online Guide* section on personal listening devices, I realized this would have greatly helped me serve my customer. I not only would have been knowledgeable about how personal FM systems operate, I would have been better prepared to compare different systems, help the customer make an informed choice, and document our counseling activities.

Finally, the *Hearing Assistive Technology Online Guide* will make you a more informed counselor. Why? Young, hearing-impaired customers often come to my office excited about the latest assistive hearing technology. They are accessing this information on the Web and waste no time taking me to the web site. You can bet they will be bringing it to your offices if they are not already. The *Hearing Assistive Technology Online Guide* will provide you with the basic information to bring you up to speed and help the customer make an informed choice.



PEPNet Teleconference October 20, 2005

“Designing, Implementing and Managing Successful English Programs: Language and Literacy Programs for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in Educational Settings”

The purpose of this live teleconference is to provide English teachers, sign language interpreters, direct service providers, and administrators with proven practices in designing, implementing, and managing successful English programs. Panelists from around the country will share their own creative and experimental work experiences on what it takes to maintain a successful English literacy program for students with hearing loss in educational settings.

This program will address:

- Program and course development
- Description of model literacy programs
- Teaching strategies for English teachers

The teleconference is intended to be a highly interactive session. We encourage participants to submit questions in advance by e-mail or fax or to call in with questions during the live broadcast. Be sure to visit the PEPNet website at www.pepnet.org for contact information and teleconference updates.

Register as a downlink site with our Online Registration for \$100 per site.

Documents can be downloaded from our teleconference documents download page. Additional information regarding this event is available from Toufong Vang at toufong@mcpo.org.



50th Biennial Conference Sept. 28 - October 1st, 2005 Marriott-Detroit/Pontiac at Centerpoint

FOR REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION SEE
THE MDA WEB SITE:

www.mideaf.org

HANDS-UP! FOR-FOR?



Deaf Celebration Day 2005

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

10:00 AM—5:00 PM

SUMMIT PLACE MALL

315 NORTH TELEGRAPH ROAD

WATERFORD, MICHIGAN

**Over 50 exhibitors offering
information on Deafness.
Hands on activities for the kids!**

www.deafcan.org